Please add the following new claims:

15. (New) A fuel injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an energizable actuating element;

a valve seat element;

a rigid valve seat provided on the valve seat element; and

a valve closing element that is axially movable along a valve longitudinal axis and that works in conjunction with the rigid valve seat so as to open and close a valve, wherein:

at least one outlet opening is provided downstream from the rigid valve seat, the valve closing element and the valve seat element being designed so that an opening movement of the valve closing element is fuel-pressure-assisted, wherein:

the opening movement of the valve closing element is directed away from the at least one outlet opening,

a closing movement of the valve closing element is directed toward the at least one outlet opening, and

the valve closing element has an inner through hole through which a fuel flows in a direction that is opposite to the opening movement of the valve closing element.

16. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

upstream from the rigid valve seat, between the valve closing element and the valve seat element, a hollow space is formed, from which the fuel flows toward the rigid valve seat, the flowing fuel having a radial, outward flow component.

17. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

upstream from the rigid valve seat, between the valve closing element and the valve seat element, a hollow space is formed, from which the fuel flows toward the rigid valve seat, the flowing fuel having a radial flow component and an axial flow component in a direction of the opening movement of the valve closing element.

18. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

the valve closing element is partial-sphere-shaped.

19. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, further comprising:

a needle sleeve through which the fuel flows and to which the valve closing element is rigidly connected in a pressure-tight manner.

20. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 19, wherein:

the needle sleeve at least partially penetrates and is attached to the inner through hole of the valve closing element.

21. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 19, further comprising:

a valve housing to which the needle sleeve is attached rigidly and in a pressure-tight manner at an end opposite the valve closing element, wherein:

a section of the needle sleeve is resilient and elastic, and

an axial movement of the valve closing element is enabled by the section of the needle sleeve that is resilient and elastic.

22. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 21, wherein:

the section of the valve needle that is resilient and elastic is pleated in a helical manner.

23. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

the valve seat element includes a middle trough-shaped recess that is adjacent to a truncated-cone-shaped valve seat surface of the rigid valve seat in the direction of flow.

24. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 15, wherein:

the valve seat element is embodied as a flat seat.